



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

SEPTEMBER 2004

FOR MILWAUKEE/WOW COUNTIES
MILWAUKEE, WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE AND JOBS COUNT CONTINUE IMPROVEMENT

Milwaukee County's unemployment rate declined slightly over the month to 6.3 percent in August. August's rate is dramatically lower than August 2003's rate of 7.5 percent, which represents approximately 9,700 more employed and over 5,300 fewer unemployed. This is Milwaukee County's lowest unemployment rate of 2004 and it is also the lowest unemploy-

ment rate recorded since December 2002.

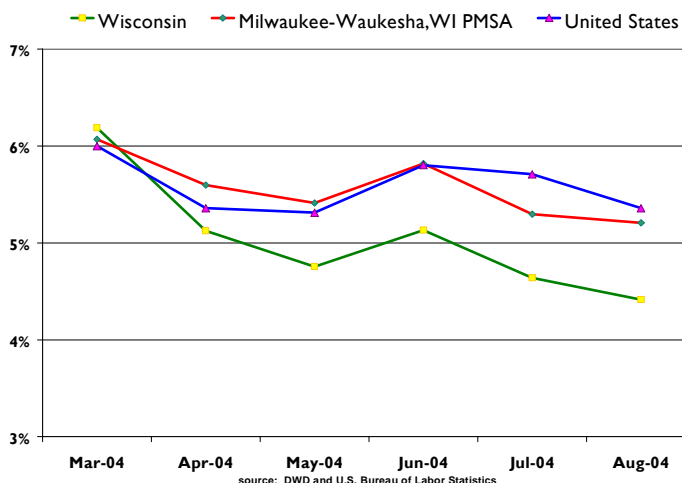
Washington County's unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in August. This is unchanged over the month and is one, full percent point lower than the unemployment rate of August 2003. The last two months mark the only ones in which Washington County's rate has

fallen below four percent since December 2001. Washington County has 1,400 more employed and 700 fewer unemployed compared to August 2003.

Ozaukee County's labor force continues to show extremely low unemployment rates. August's rate was 2.8 percent, which is lower by one-tenth of a point since July. August's rate is almost two percent points lower than it was one year ago, marking the metro area's largest, county-level, annual decrease in unemployment rate. Ozaukee has 1,000 more employed and 900 fewer unemployed residents compared to August 2003. One would have to look back to year 2001 to see at least two or more months of unemployment rates lower than three percent, which historically, is not uncommon in Ozaukee County.

Waukesha County's unemployment rate in August was 3.6

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA counties: August 2004

	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA			Milwaukee County		
	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03
Labor force	3,143,789	3,175,939	3,122,612	843,736	848,196	835,703	499,836	502,559	495,476
Employed	3,004,983	3,028,540	2,957,928	799,803	803,279	783,256	468,122	470,157	458,437
Unemployed	138,806	147,399	164,684	43,933	44,917	52,447	31,714	32,402	37,039
% Unemployed	4.4%	4.6%	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.4%	7.5%
	Washington County			Ozaukee County			Waukesha County		
	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03	Aug-04	Jul-04	Aug-03
Labor force	71,474	71,817	70,765	49,720	49,977	49,663	222,706	223,841	219,798
Employed	68,712	69,010	67,290	48,334	48,544	47,334	214,634	215,567	210,194
Unemployed	2,762	2,807	3,475	1,386	1,433	2,329	8,072	8,274	9,604
% Unemployed	3.9%	3.9%	4.9%	2.8%	2.9%	4.7%	3.6%	3.7%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA: August 2004

Place of Work Employment in 1,000's	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA		
	August 2004	Change since July 2004	Change since August 2003	August 2004	Change since July 2004	Change since August 2003
All Industries	2,851.3	4.7	46.5	844.9	1.4	11.7
Construction/Natural Resources	142.1	-0.8	2.2	33.8	-0.2	-2.9
Manufacturing	524.5	2.5	10.8	136.6	0.2	0.8
Retail Trade	327.9	1.6	3.3	81.4	0.1	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	117.8	-0.8	3.4	41.3	-0.1	2.0
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	106.4	0.8	0.2	31.0	-0.3	0.9
Financial Activities	161.9	-0.3	2.9	61.4	-0.8	1.6
Education and Health Services	376.1	0.2	10.9	134.3	1.4	5.8
Leisure and Hospitality	274.0	1.7	4.8	73.1	0.6	1.7
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	448.0	5.4	14.1	169.4	0.8	4.0
Information	48.5	0.3	-1.0	19.3	-0.1	0.7
Professional and Business Services	270.8	5.3	17.8	110.8	1.2	5.6
Other Services	128.7	-0.2	-2.7	39.3	-0.3	-2.3
Fed/State/Local Government	372.6	-5.6	-6.1	82.6	-0.3	-2.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

percent. This is a small decrease over the month of one-tenth of a percentage point. It is eight-tenths lower than last August with 4,400 more employed and 1,500 fewer unemployed.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of the **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** was 5.2 percent. Like some of its component counties, this is the lowest unemployment rate that the metro area has seen on a not seasonally adjusted basis this year. August's unemployment rate is lower than July's by one-tenth of a point and is lower than last August's by 1.1 percent point. The metro area has 16,500 more employed and over 8,500 fewer unemployed compared to last August.

August's preliminary tally of total nonfarm wage and salary industry employment in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** stood at 844,900 jobs. This is a monthly net improvement of 1,400 more jobs, which is the same as the monthly gain seen in 2003. August is a month that, in net terms, usually shows little monthly change in its

total number of jobs compared to July, though the small changes are usually on the positive side. The industry sectors showing gains in employment were manufacturing (+200 jobs), professional and business services (+1,200 jobs), educational and health services (+1,400 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (+600 jobs).

Industry sectors showing monthly employment losses were construction (-200 jobs), transportation, warehousing and utilities (-300 jobs), financial activities (-800 jobs), other services (-300 jobs) and total government (-300 jobs). Total trade employment was unchanged over the month.

Annually, the metro area has 11,700 more jobs than it did in August 2003. This is the second month in a row to show this exact annual increase in jobs. August is the fifth consecutive month to show an annual job increase and is the third month in a row to show an annual increase of over 11,000 jobs.

Most industry sectors are showing annual job growth. The largest job growth at this time is seen in educa-

tional and health services (+5,800 jobs) and in professional and business services (+5,600 jobs). Wholesale trade also shows a healthy gain of 2,000 jobs or five percent growth. Manufacturing employment shows net growth of 800 jobs, with 1,100-job growth in durable goods production. This is the second month in a row that manufacturing shows annual employment growth in the metro area.

Industry sectors showing annual losses of workers are construction (-2,900 jobs), other services (-2,300 jobs) and total government employment (-2,100 jobs).

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